

NEWS RELEASE

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FRANKLIN COUNTY RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced the plea of guilty to two counts of an indictment returned in United States District Court in Benton; Conspiracy to Manufacture and Possess with Intent to Distribute over 500 Grams of Methamphetamine, and Possession of Products used for the Production of Methamphetamine. The plea took place in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois, on September 29, 2006.

Kesha A. McCay, age 24, of Hurst, Illinois entered a plea of guilty to one count which alleged her involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture and possess with intent to distribute over 500 grams of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine between November 2003, and May 2005, in Jackson, Franklin and Williamson counties. She faces a potential sentence of life imprisonment, a \$4 million dollar fine, and at least 5 years of supervised release on that count. As a result of her plea to the other count, Possession of Products used for the Production of Methamphetamine, she could be sentenced to 20 years, \$250,000 in fines and up to 3 years of supervised release.

At the hearing on her change of plea, the defendant admitted to being involved in a conspiracy, in Franklin, Williamson and Jackson Counties, which involved making more than 15 kilograms of methamphetamine for use and distribution to other coconspirators. According to the factual basis, the defendant was responsible for obtaining and then supplying pseudoephedrine pills which were then used by her coconspirators to manufacture methamphetamine. She also assisted in the distribution of the methamphetamine after it was manufactured.

The court set sentencing for December 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Benton and remanded her to the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing.

Investigation into the case was handled by the Illinois State Police, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, the COMIT Drug Task Force, and by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.